

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

WORK SESSION ON GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Tuesday, October 19, 2010
11:00 – 1:00 p.m.

The Rhode Island Department of Education – Shepard Building
5th Floor – Peter McWalters Conference Room
255 Westminster St. – Providence, RI 02903

MINUTES

Attending: C. Callahan, K. Forbes, A. Beretta, B. Shimberg, P. Guida

The meeting convened at 11:00 a.m.

Progress of review to date/Options Presented at 10/7 Board of Regents Meeting

RIDE staff member Andrea Castaneda reviewed the discussions and the three agreements that have resulted to date along with a revised timeline. She spoke about the group 1) reaching “preliminary” consensus that any changes to the regulations would reflect a conjunctive approval system; 2) that adopted solutions would not back off from the original intent of the regulations; and 3) would seek to minimize the inappropriate impact on students resulting from systems inability to implement approvable diploma systems.

Ms. Castaneda then reviewed the options, as presented at the October 7, 2010 Board of Regents meeting. The group reviewed the attached document, “Possible Options for Partially Proficient Graduation Requirements” and recommended that #4 be eliminated, but that other ways to assess proficiency be added to #2 and #5 be deleted.

The group discussed the intent of #2 as per section L-6-3.3, “...If a student does not meet this minimum level of proficiency necessary in an area of study, additional evidence of proficiency will be required in a manner and format to be prescribed by the Commissioner”. Additional discussion concerned what other options are available to gather evidence on student achievement/proficiency.

The Regents talked about the concept of offering a “differentiated” local diploma and a possible plan that would allow for three diplomas – 1) a Regents diploma, 2) a local diploma and 3) a Rhode Island diploma.

They discussed the “three legged stool” concept for graduation requirements – one leg being the successful completion of high school courses; the second being the successful completion of their diploma assessments (exhibition, portfolio etc.), and the third being the achievement of partially proficient on the NECAPs.

The group also talked about the appeals process, as described in the regulations.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.